62 perish in Lanka fighting

COLOMBO, Jan 1: Sri Lanka said on Friday 62 people, most of them Tamil Tiger rebels, had been killed in the east of the country during an operation by government troops.

A defence ministry statement said the troops backed by artillery fire had conducted a limited operation on Thursday in Pulipanchikal in the eastern Batticaloa district.

It quoted a rebel transmission monitored by troops as saying that 58 rebels were killed, and added that 4 more where killed.—Reuters